

**Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 49031
Hidalgo County
RN107448920
Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E**

Order Type:

1660 Agreed Order

Findings Order Justification:

N/A

Media:

MSW

Small Business:

No

Location(s) Where Violation(s) Occurred:

Sunset Park Citizen Collection Station aka Sunrise Hill, located approximately 0.25 mile north of intersection of Mile 1.5 West and Mile 11, Weslaco, Hidalgo County

Type of Operation:

Citizens' collection station

Other Significant Matters:

Additional Pending Enforcement Actions: No

Past-Due Penalties: No

Other: N/A

Interested Third-Parties: The complainant has expressed an interest in this matter but does not wish to speak at Agenda.

Texas Register Publication Date: April 3, 2015

Comments Received: No

Penalty Information

Total Penalty Assessed: \$17,813

Amount Deferred for Expedited Settlement: \$3,562

Amount Deferred for Financial Inability to Pay: \$0

Total Paid to General Revenue: \$0

Total Due to General Revenue: \$0

Payment Plan: N/A

Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP") Conditional Offset: \$14,251

Name of SEP: Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. (Third-Party Pre-Approved)

Compliance History Classifications:

Person/CN - Satisfactory

Site/RN - N/A

Major Source: Yes

Statutory Limit Adjustment: N/A

Applicable Penalty Policy: April 2014

Executive Summary – Enforcement Matter – Case No. 49031
Hidalgo County
RN107448920
Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E

Investigation Information

Complaint Date(s): August 21, 2013

Complaint Information: Alleged a large pile of construction and demolition waste, sofas, pallets, brush, and approximately 1,000 tires were placed on the grounds at the Respondent's location.

Date(s) of Investigation: September 20, 2013

Date(s) of NOE(s): July 8, 2014

Violation Information

1. Failed to obtain a scrap tire storage site registration for the Facility prior to storing more than 500 used or scrap tires on the ground or 2,000 used or scrap tires in enclosed and lockable containers. Specifically, approximately 2,260 used or scrap tires were on the ground at the Facility [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 328.60(a)].
2. Failed to prevent the unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste at the Facility. Specifically, the Respondent stored, processed, and disposed of approximately 4,713 cubic yards of household waste, shingles, petroleum based material, and tar-like material without obtaining a permit or other authorization from the TCEQ or providing notification to the Executive Director of the intent to operate a citizens' collection station [30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 330.11(e) and 330.15(c)].

Corrective Actions/Technical Requirements

Corrective Action(s) Completed:

Used or scrap tires were removed from the Facility by September 30, 2013.

Technical Requirements:

1. The Order will require the Respondent to implement and complete a SEP (see SEP Attachment A).
2. The Order will also require the Respondent to:
 - a. Immediately, cease disposing of any additional waste at the Facility.
 - b. Within 30 days, submit a Notice of Intent to operate a citizens' collection station. Respond completely and adequately, as determined by TCEQ, to any requests for additional information concerning the Notice of Intent and address any deficiencies identified by the Municipal Solid Waste Permits Section within 30 days of such request or by any deadline specified in writing; or
 - c. Within 90 days, remove all of the waste at the Facility and dispose of it at an authorized facility.

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d. Within 105 days, submit written certification to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provisions a. and b. or a. and c.

Litigation Information

Date Petition(s) Filed: N/A

Date Answer(s) Filed: N/A

SOAH Referral Date: N/A

Hearing Date(s): N/A

Settlement Date: N/A

Contact Information

TCEQ Attorney: N/A

TCEQ Enforcement Coordinator: Margarita Dennis, Enforcement Division, Enforcement Team 7, MC R-04, (817) 588-5892; Candy Garrett, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-1456

TCEQ SEP Coordinator: Stuart Beckley, SEP Coordinator, Enforcement Division, MC 219, (512) 239-3565

Respondent: The Honorable Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County Judge, 302 W. University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78539

A.C. Cuellar, Jr., Commissioner Precinct 1, Hidalgo County, 302 W. University Drive, Edinburg, Texas 78539

Respondent's Attorney: N/A

Attachment A
Docket Number: 2014-1094-MSW-E
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

Respondent:	Hidalgo County
Penalty Amount:	Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$14,251)
SEP Offset Amount:	Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$14,251)
Type of SEP:	Contribution to a Third-Party Pre-Approved SEP
Third-Party Administrator:	Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc.
Project Name:	<i>Tire Collection Events and Cleanup of Abandoned Tire Sites</i>
Location of SEP:	Hidalgo County - Rio Grande River Basin, Gulf Coast Aquifer

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) agrees to offset the administrative penalty amount assessed in this Agreed Order for the Respondent to contribute to a Supplemental Environmental Project (“SEP”). The offset is equal to the SEP Offset Amount set forth above and is conditioned upon completion of the project in accordance with the terms of this Attachment A.

1. Project Description

a. Project

The Respondent shall contribute the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator named above. The contribution will be to the **Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. (“RC&D”)** for the *Tire Collection Events and Cleanup of Abandoned Tire Sites* project. The contribution will be used in accordance with the SEP Agreement between the Third-Party Administrator and the TCEQ (the “Project”). Specifically, the SEP Offset Amount will be used to coordinate with local city and county government officials and private entities (“Partner Entities”) to conduct tire collection events where residents will be able to drop off tires for proper disposal or recycling (“Collection Events”), or to clean sites where tires have been disposed of illegally (“Site Cleanups”).

Texas RC&D shall ensure that collected tires, debris, and waste are properly transported to and disposed at an authorized disposal site, and if a licensed hauler is needed for tires or other regulated waste collected from sites, Texas RC&D shall ensure that only properly licensed haulers are used for transport and disposal of tires and regulated wastes. The SEP will be performed in accordance with all federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

Hidalgo County
Agreed Order - Attachment A

All dollars contributed will be used solely for the direct cost of the Project, including but not limited to supplies, materials, and equipment. Any portion of this contribution that is not able to be spent on the specifically identified SEP may, at the discretion of the Executive Director (“ED”), be applied to another pre-approved SEP.

The Respondent’s signature affixed to this Agreed Order certifies that it has no prior commitment to make this contribution and that it is being contributed solely in an effort to settle this enforcement action. The Respondent shall not profit in any manner from this SEP.

b. Environmental Benefit

This SEP will provide an environmental benefit by providing communities with a free and convenient means for safe and proper disposal of tires and by reducing the dangers and health threats associated with illegally dumped tires.

The health risks associated with illegal dumping are significant. Areas used for illegal tire dumping may be easily accessible to people, especially children, who are vulnerable to the physical hazards posed by abandoned tires. Rodents, insects, and other vermin attracted to dump sites may also pose health risks. Tire dump sites which contain scrap tires pose an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can breed 100 times faster in the warm, stagnant water standing in scrap tire casings. Severe illnesses, including West Nile Virus, have been attributed to disease-carrying mosquitoes. The potential for tire fires is also reduced by removing illegally dumped tires. Tire fires can result in the contamination of air, surface water, ground water, and soil. In addition, neighborhoods have been evacuated and property damage has been significant due to tire dump sites that caught fire. Illegal tire dumping can also impact drainage of runoff, making areas more susceptible to flooding when wastes block waterways. Open burning at tire dump sites can cause forest fires and erosion as fires burn away trees and undergrowth. Tire dumping has a negative impact on trees and wildlife, and runoff from tire dumpsites may contain chemicals that can contaminate wells and surface water used for drinking.

c. Minimum Expenditure

The Respondent shall contribute at least the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator and comply with all other provisions of this SEP.

2. Performance Schedule

Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, the Respondent must contribute the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator. The Respondent shall make the check payable to **Texas Association of RC&D SEP** and shall mail the contribution with a copy of the Agreed Order to:

Hidalgo County
Agreed Order - Attachment A

Texas Association of RC&D Areas, Inc.
Attn.: Jerry Pearce, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2533
Victoria, Texas 77902

3. Records and Reporting

Concurrent with the payment of the SEP Offset Amount, the Respondent shall provide the Enforcement SEP Coordinator with a copy of the check and transmittal letter indicating full payment of the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator. The Respondent shall mail a copy of the check and transmittal letter to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Enforcement Division
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 219
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

4. Failure to Fully Perform

If the Respondent does not perform its obligations under this Attachment A, including full expenditure of the SEP Offset Amount, as described in Sections 2 and 3 above, the ED may require immediate payment of all or part of the SEP Offset Amount.

In the event the ED determines that the Respondent failed to fully implement and complete the Project, the Respondent shall remit payment for all or a portion of the SEP Offset Amount, as determined by the ED, and as set forth in the attached Agreed Order. After receiving notice of failure to complete the SEP, the Respondent shall include the docket number of the attached Agreed Order and a note that the enclosed payment is for the reimbursement of a SEP. The Respondent shall make the check payable to "Texas Commission on Environmental Quality" and shall mail it to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Litigation Division
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 175
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

5. Publicity

Any public statements concerning this SEP and/or project, made by or on behalf of the Respondent must include a clear statement that **the project was performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by the TCEQ**. Such statements include advertising, public relations, and press releases.

6. Recognition

The Respondent may not seek recognition for this contribution in any other state or federal regulatory program.

7. Other SEPs by TCEQ or Other Agencies

The SEP Offset Amount identified in this Attachment A and in the attached Agreed Order has not been, and shall not be, included as a SEP for the Respondent under any other Agreed Order negotiated with the TCEQ or any other agency of the state or federal government.



Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

TCEQ DATES	Assigned	14-Jul-2014	Screening	22-Jul-2014	EPA Due	
	PCW	12-Sep-2014				

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION	
Respondent	Hidalgo County
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN107448920
Facility/Site Region	15-Harlingen
Major/Minor Source	Major

CASE INFORMATION			
Enf./Case ID No.	49031	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2014-1094-MSW-E	Order Type	1660
Media Program(s)	Waste Tires	Government/Non-Profit	Yes
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Margarita Dennis
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 7
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum	\$0	Maximum	\$25,000

Penalty Calculation Section

TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties) **Subtotal 1** **\$3,750**

ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

Subtotals 2-7 are obtained by multiplying the Total Base Penalty (Subtotal 1) by the indicated percentage.

Compliance History **0.0%** Enhancement **Subtotals 2, 3, & 7** **\$0**

Notes: No adjustments for Compliance History.

Culpability **No** **0.0%** Enhancement **Subtotal 4** **\$0**

Notes: The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.

Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments **Subtotal 5** **-\$937**

Economic Benefit **0.0%** Enhancement* **Subtotal 6** **\$0**

Total EB Amounts **\$4**
 Estimated Cost of Compliance **\$3,125**
 *Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7 **Final Subtotal** **\$2,813**

OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE **0.0%** **Adjustment** **\$0**

Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes:

Final Penalty Amount **\$2,813**

STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT **Final Assessed Penalty** **\$2,813**

DEFERRAL **20.0%** Reduction **Adjustment** **-\$562**

Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage. (Enter number only; e.g. 20 for 20% reduction.)

Notes:

Deferral offered for expedited settlement.

PAYABLE PENALTY **\$2,251**

Screening Date 22-Jul-2014
Respondent Hidalgo County
Case ID No. 49031
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN107448920
Media [Statute] Waste Tires
Enf. Coordinator Margarita Dennis

Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E

PCW

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)
 PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Compliance History Worksheet

>> **Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)**

Component	Number of...	Enter Number Here	Adjust.
NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (<i>number of NOVs meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (<i>number of orders meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final enforcement orders, agreed final enforcement orders without a denial of liability, or default orders of this state or the federal government, or any final prohibitory emergency orders issued by the commission	0	0%
Judgments and Consent Decrees	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government (<i>number of judgments or consent decrees meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final court judgments and default judgments, or non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees without a denial of liability, of this state or the federal government	0	0%
Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government (<i>number of counts</i>)	0	0%
Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (<i>number of events</i>)	0	0%
Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which notices were submitted</i>)	0	0%
	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which violations were disclosed</i>)	0	0%

Please Enter Yes or No

Other	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%
	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%
	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2) 0%

>> **Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)**

N/A

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3) 0%

>> **Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)**

Satisfactory Performer

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) 0%

>> **Compliance History Summary**

**Compliance
 History
 Notes**

No adjustments for Compliance History.

Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7) 0%

>> **Final Compliance History Adjustment**

Final Adjustment Percentage *capped at 100% 0%

Screening Date 22-Jul-2014
Respondent Hidalgo County
Case ID No. 49031
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN107448920
Media [Statute] Waste Tires
Enf. Coordinator Margarita Dennis

Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E

PCW

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)
 PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Violation Number 1

Rule Cite(s) 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 328.60(a)

Violation Description
 Failed to obtain a scrap tire storage site registration for the Facility prior to storing more than 500 used or scrap tires on the ground or 2,000 used or scrap tires in enclosed and lockable containers. Specifically, approximately 2,260 used or scrap tires were on the ground at the Facility.

Base Penalty \$25,000

>> **Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix**

OR

Release	Harm			Percent
	Major	Moderate	Minor	
Actual				0.0%
Potential				

>> **Programmatic Matrix**

Falsification	Harm			Percent
	Major	Moderate	Minor	
	x			15.0%

Matrix Notes 100% of the rule requirement was not met.

Adjustment \$21,250

\$3,750

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 1 10 Number of violation days

mark only one with an x

daily	
weekly	
monthly	x
quarterly	
semiannual	
annual	
single event	

Violation Base Penalty \$3,750

One monthly event is recommended based on the documentation of the violation during the September 20, 2013 investigation to the September 30, 2013 compliance date.

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

25.0%

Reduction \$937

	Before NOE/NOV	NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer
Extraordinary		
Ordinary	x	
N/A		(mark with x)

Notes The Respondent achieved compliance on September 30, 2013 prior to the Notice of Enforcement dated July 8, 2014.

Violation Subtotal \$2,813

Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Statutory Limit Test

Estimated EB Amount \$4

Violation Final Penalty Total \$2,813

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$2,813

Economic Benefit Worksheet

Respondent Hidalgo County
Case ID No. 49031
Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN107448920
Media Waste Tires
Violation No. 1

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
No commas or \$							

Delayed Costs

Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Engineering/Construction				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Record Keeping System				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Training/Sampling				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Remediation/Disposal	\$3,125	20-Sep-2013	30-Sep-2013	0.03	\$4	n/a	\$4
Permit Costs				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0

Notes for DELAYED costs

Actual cost to remove 2,260 tires from the Facility (per invoices submitted) and dispose of them at an authorized facility. Date required is the investigation date. Final date is the compliance date.

Avoided Costs

ANNUALIZE [1] avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)

Disposal				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Assurance [2]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs [3]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes for AVOIDED costs

Approx. Cost of Compliance

\$3,125

TOTAL

\$4



Penalty Calculation Worksheet (PCW)

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

TCEQ

DATES	Assigned	14-Jul-2014	Screening	22-Jul-2014	EPA Due	
	PCW	12-Sep-2014				

RESPONDENT/FACILITY INFORMATION

Respondent	Hidalgo County				
Reg. Ent. Ref. No.	RN107448920				
Facility/Site Region	15-Harlingen	Major/Minor Source	Minor		

CASE INFORMATION

Enf./Case ID No.	49031	No. of Violations	1
Docket No.	2014-1094-MSW-E	Order Type	1660
Media Program(s)	Municipal Solid Waste	Government/Non-Profit	Yes
Multi-Media		Enf. Coordinator	Margarita Dennis
		EC's Team	Enforcement Team 7
Admin. Penalty \$ Limit Minimum	\$0	Maximum	\$25,000

Penalty Calculation Section

TOTAL BASE PENALTY (Sum of violation base penalties) **Subtotal 1** **\$15,000**

ADJUSTMENTS (+/-) TO SUBTOTAL 1

Subtotals 2-7 are obtained by multiplying the Total Base Penalty (Subtotal 1) by the indicated percentage.

Compliance History **0.0%** Enhancement **Subtotals 2, 3, & 7** **\$0**

Notes: No adjustments for Compliance History.

Culpability **No** **0.0%** Enhancement **Subtotal 4** **\$0**

Notes: The Respondent does not meet the culpability criteria.

Good Faith Effort to Comply Total Adjustments **Subtotal 5** **\$0**

Economic Benefit **0.0%** Enhancement* **Subtotal 6** **\$0**

Total EB Amounts: \$3,936
 Estimated Cost of Compliance: \$50,678
 *Capped at the Total EB \$ Amount

SUM OF SUBTOTALS 1-7 **Final Subtotal** **\$15,000**

OTHER FACTORS AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE **0.0%** **Adjustment** **\$0**

Reduces or enhances the Final Subtotal by the indicated percentage.

Notes:

Final Penalty Amount **\$15,000**

STATUTORY LIMIT ADJUSTMENT **Final Assessed Penalty** **\$15,000**

DEFERRAL **20.0%** Reduction **Adjustment** **-\$3,000**

Reduces the Final Assessed Penalty by the indicated percentage. (Enter number only; e.g. 20 for 20% reduction.)

Notes:

Deferral offered for expedited settlement.

PAYABLE PENALTY **\$12,000**

Screening Date 22-Jul-2014

Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E

PCW

Respondent Hidalgo County

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)

Case ID No. 49031

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN107448920

Media [Statute] Municipal Solid Waste

Enf. Coordinator Margarita Dennis

Compliance History Worksheet

>> **Compliance History Site Enhancement (Subtotal 2)**

Component	Number of...	Enter Number Here	Adjust.
NOVs	Written notices of violation ("NOVs") with same or similar violations as those in the current enforcement action (<i>number of NOVs meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Other written NOVs	0	0%
Orders	Any agreed final enforcement orders containing a denial of liability (<i>number of orders meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final enforcement orders, agreed final enforcement orders without a denial of liability, or default orders of this state or the federal government, or any final prohibitory emergency orders issued by the commission	0	0%
Judgments and Consent Decrees	Any non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees containing a denial of liability of this state or the federal government (<i>number of judgments or consent decrees meeting criteria</i>)	0	0%
	Any adjudicated final court judgments and default judgments, or non-adjudicated final court judgments or consent decrees without a denial of liability, of this state or the federal government	0	0%
Convictions	Any criminal convictions of this state or the federal government (<i>number of counts</i>)	0	0%
Emissions	Chronic excessive emissions events (<i>number of events</i>)	0	0%
Audits	Letters notifying the executive director of an intended audit conducted under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which notices were submitted</i>)	0	0%
	Disclosures of violations under the Texas Environmental, Health, and Safety Audit Privilege Act, 74th Legislature, 1995 (<i>number of audits for which violations were disclosed</i>)	0	0%

Please Enter Yes or No

Other	Environmental management systems in place for one year or more	No	0%
	Voluntary on-site compliance assessments conducted by the executive director under a special assistance program	No	0%
	Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program	No	0%
	Early compliance with, or offer of a product that meets future state or federal government environmental requirements	No	0%

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 2) 0%

>> **Repeat Violator (Subtotal 3)**

N/A

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 3) 0%

>> **Compliance History Person Classification (Subtotal 7)**

Satisfactory Performer

Adjustment Percentage (Subtotal 7) 0%

>> **Compliance History Summary**

Compliance History Notes No adjustments for Compliance History.

Total Compliance History Adjustment Percentage (Subtotals 2, 3, & 7) 0%

>> **Final Compliance History Adjustment**

Final Adjustment Percentage *capped at 100% 0%

Screening Date 22-Jul-2014

Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E

PCW

Respondent Hidalgo County

Policy Revision 4 (April 2014)

Case ID No. 49031

PCW Revision March 26, 2014

Reg. Ent. Reference No. RN107448920

Media [Statute] Municipal Solid Waste

Enf. Coordinator Margarita Dennis

Violation Number 1

Rule Cite(s) 30 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 330.11(e) and 330.15(c)

Violation Description

Failed to prevent the unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste ("MSW") at the Facility. Specifically the Respondent stored, processed, and disposed of approximately 4,713 cubic yards of household waste, shingles, petroleum based material, and tar-like material without obtaining a permit or other authorization from the TCEQ or providing notification to the Executive Director of the intent to operate a citizens' collection station.

Base Penalty \$25,000

>> Environmental, Property and Human Health Matrix

OR

Release	Harm		
	Major	Moderate	Minor
Actual		X	
Potential			

Percent 15.0%

>> Programmatic Matrix

Falsification	Major	Moderate	Minor

Percent 0.0%

Matrix Notes

Human health or the environment has been exposed to significant amounts of pollutants which do not exceed levels that are protective of human health or environmental receptors as a result of the violation.

Adjustment \$21,250

\$3,750

Violation Events

Number of Violation Events 4

305 Number of violation days

daily	
weekly	
monthly	
quarterly	X
semiannual	
annual	
single event	

mark only one with an x

Violation Base Penalty \$15,000

Four quarterly events are recommended from the documentation of the violation during the September 20, 2013 investigation to the July 22, 2014 screening date.

Good Faith Efforts to Comply

0.0%

Reduction \$0

Before NOE/NOV NOE/NOV to EDPRP/Settlement Offer

Extraordinary		
Ordinary		
N/A	X	(mark with x)

Notes

The Respondent does not meet the good faith criteria for this violation.

Violation Subtotal \$15,000

Economic Benefit (EB) for this violation

Statutory Limit Test

Estimated EB Amount \$3,936

Violation Final Penalty Total \$15,000

This violation Final Assessed Penalty (adjusted for limits) \$15,000

Economic Benefit Worksheet

Respondent Hidalgo County
Case ID No. 49031
Req. Ent. Reference No. RN107448920
Media Municipal Solid Waste
Violation No. 1

Percent Interest	Years of Depreciation
5.0	15

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
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No commas or \$

Delayed Costs

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Buildings				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Engineering/Construction				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Land				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Record Keeping System				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Training/Sampling				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0
Remediation/Disposal	\$49,678	20-Sep-2013	10-Apr-2015	1.55	\$3,859	n/a	\$3,859
Permit Costs	\$1,000	20-Sep-2013	10-Apr-2015	1.55	\$78	n/a	\$78
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	n/a	\$0

Notes for DELAYED costs

Estimated cost to remove and dispose of waste at an authorized facility and to obtain a permit or other authorization to operate the Facility. Date required is the investigation date. Final date is the estimated date of compliance.

Avoided Costs

ANNUALIZE [1] avoided costs before entering item (except for one-time avoided costs)

Item Description	Item Cost	Date Required	Final Date	Yrs	Interest Saved	Onetime Costs	EB Amount
Disposal				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personnel				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inspection/Reporting/Sampling				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/Equipment				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Financial Assurance [2]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
ONE-TIME avoided costs [3]				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (as needed)				0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

Notes for AVOIDED costs

Approx. Cost of Compliance

\$50,678

TOTAL

\$3,936

The TCEQ is committed to accessibility.

To request a more accessible version of this report, please contact the TCEQ Help Desk at (512) 239-4357.



Compliance History Report

PUBLISHED Compliance History Report for CN600753990, RN107448920, Rating Year 2013 which includes Compliance History (CH) components from September 1, 2008, through August 31, 2013.

Customer, Respondent, or Owner/Operator: CN600753990, Hidalgo County **Classification:** SATISFACTORY **Rating:** 5.92

Regulated Entity: RN107448920, Sunset Park Citizen Collection Station aka Sunrise Hill **Classification:** NOT APPLICABLE **Rating:** N/A

Complexity Points: N/A **Repeat Violator:** N/A

CH Group: 14 - Other

Location: 0.25 miles north of the intersection of Mile 1.5 West and Mile 11 in Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas

TCEQ Region: REGION 15 - HARLINGEN

ID Number(s):
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE NON PERMITTED ID NUMBER 455150245

Compliance History Period: September 01, 2008 to August 31, 2013 **Rating Year:** 2013 **Rating Date:** 09/01/2013

Date Compliance History Report Prepared: July 22, 2014

Agency Decision Requiring Compliance History: Enforcement

Component Period Selected: July 22, 2009 to July 22, 2014

TCEQ Staff Member to Contact for Additional Information Regarding This Compliance History.
Name: Margarita Dennis **Phone:** (817) 588-5892

Site and Owner/Operator History:

- 1) Has the site been in existence and/or operation for the full five year compliance period? NO
- 2) Has there been a (known) change in ownership/operator of the site during the compliance period? NO
- 3) If YES for #2, who is the current owner/operator? N/A
- 4) If YES for #2, who was/were the prior owner(s)/operator(s)? N/A
- 5) If YES, when did the change(s) in owner or operator occur? N/A

Components (Multimedia) for the Site Are Listed in Sections A - J

A. Final Orders, court judgments, and consent decrees:

N/A

B. Criminal convictions:

N/A

C. Chronic excessive emissions events:

N/A

D. The approval dates of investigations (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):

N/A

E. Written notices of violations (NOV) (CCEDS Inv. Track. No.):

A notice of violation represents a written allegation of a violation of a specific regulatory requirement from the commission to a regulated entity. A notice of violation is not a final enforcement action, nor proof that a violation has actually occurred.

N/A

F. Environmental audits:

N/A

G. Type of environmental management systems (EMSs):

N/A

H. Voluntary on-site compliance assessment dates:

N/A

I. Participation in a voluntary pollution reduction program:

N/A

J. Early compliance:

N/A

Sites Outside of Texas:

N/A

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**IN THE MATTER OF AN
ENFORCEMENT ACTION
CONCERNING
HIDALGO COUNTY
RN107448920**

**§ BEFORE THE
§
§ TEXAS COMMISSION ON
§
§ ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**AGREED ORDER
DOCKET NO. 2014-1094-MSW-E**

I. JURISDICTION AND STIPULATIONS

On _____, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("the Commission" or "TCEQ") considered this agreement of the parties, resolving an enforcement action regarding Hidalgo County ("Respondent") under the authority of TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 361 and TEX. WATER CODE ch. 7. The Executive Director of the TCEQ, through the Enforcement Division, and the Respondent together stipulate that:

1. The Respondent owns and operates an unauthorized citizens' collection station located approximately 0.25 miles north of the intersection of Mile 1.5 West and Mile 11 in Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas (the "Facility").
2. The Facility involves or involved the management of municipal solid waste ("MSW") as defined in TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ch. 361.
3. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree that the Commission has jurisdiction to enter this Agreed Order, and that the Respondent is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.
4. The Respondent received notice of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations") on or about July 13, 2014.
5. The occurrence of any violation is in dispute and the entry of this Agreed Order shall not constitute an admission by the Respondent of any violation alleged in Section II ("Allegations"), nor of any statute or rule.
6. An administrative penalty in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$17,813) is assessed by the Commission in settlement of the violations alleged in Section II ("Allegations"). Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars

(\$3,562) is deferred contingent upon the Respondent's timely and satisfactory compliance with all the terms of this Agreed Order. The deferred amount will be waived upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order. If the Respondent fails to timely and satisfactorily comply with all requirements of this Agreed Order, the Executive Director may require the Respondent to pay all or part of the deferred penalty. Specifically, Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$14,251) shall be conditionally offset by the Respondent's completion of a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP").

7. Any notice and procedures, which might otherwise be authorized or required in this action, are waived in the interest of a more timely resolution of the matter.
8. The Executive Director and the Respondent agree on a settlement of the matters alleged in this enforcement action, subject to final approval in accordance with 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(a).
9. The Executive Director recognizes that the used or scrap tires were removed from the Facility by September 30, 2013.
10. The Executive Director may, without further notice or hearing, refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas ("OAG") for further enforcement proceedings if the Executive Director determines that the Respondent has not complied with one or more of the terms or conditions in this Agreed Order.
11. This Agreed Order shall terminate five years from its effective date or upon compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order, whichever is later.
12. The provisions of this Agreed Order are deemed severable and, if a court of competent jurisdiction or other appropriate authority deems any provision of this Agreed Order unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall be valid and enforceable.

II. ALLEGATIONS

As owner and operator of the Facility, the Respondent is alleged to have:

1. Failed to obtain a scrap tire storage site registration for the Facility prior to storing more than 500 used or scrap tires on the ground or 2,000 used or scrap tires in enclosed and lockable containers, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 328.60(a), as documented during an investigation conducted on September 20, 2013. Specifically, approximately 2,260 used or scrap tires were on the ground at the Facility.
2. Failed to prevent the unauthorized disposal of MSW at the Facility, in violation of 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 330.11(e) and 330.15(c), as documented during an investigation conducted on September 20, 2013. Specifically, the Respondent stored, processed, and disposed of approximately 4,713 cubic yards of household waste, shingles, petroleum based material, and tar-like material without obtaining a permit or other authorization from the TCEQ or providing notification to the Executive Director of the intent to operate a citizens' collection station.

III. DENIALS

The Respondent generally denies each allegation in Section II ("Allegations").

IV. ORDERING PROVISIONS

1. It is, therefore, ordered by the TCEQ that the Respondent pay an administrative penalty as set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 above. The payment of this administrative penalty and the Respondent's compliance with all the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreed Order resolve only the allegations in Section II. The Commission shall not be constrained in any manner from requiring corrective action or penalties for violations which are not raised here. Administrative penalty payments shall be made payable to "TCEQ" and shall be sent with the notation "Re: Hidalgo County, Docket No. 2014-1094-MSW-E" to:

Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section
Attention: Cashier's Office, MC 214
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13088
Austin, Texas 78711-3088

2. The Respondent shall implement and complete a SEP in accordance with TEX. WATER CODE § 7.067. As set forth in Section I, Paragraph 6 Jurisdiction and Stipulations section that describes the penalty and SEP above, Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$14,251) of the assessed administrative penalty shall be offset with the condition that the SEP defined in Attachment A, incorporated herein by reference, is implemented by the Respondent. The Respondent's obligation to pay the conditionally offset portion of the administratively penalty assessed shall be discharged upon final completion of all provisions of the SEP agreement.
3. It is further ordered that the Respondent shall undertake the following technical requirements:
 - a. Immediately after the effective date of this Agreed Order, cease disposing of any additional waste at the Facility.
 - b. Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, submit a Notice of Intent to operate a citizens' collection station to:

Municipal Solid Waste Permits Section, MC 124
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Respond completely and adequately, as determined by TCEQ, to any requests for additional information concerning the Notice of Intent and address any deficiencies identified by the Municipal Solid Waste Permits Section within 30 days of such request or by any deadline specified in writing; or

- c. Within 90 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, remove all of the waste at the Facility and dispose of it at an authorized facility.
- d. Within 105 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, submit written certification as described below, and include detailed supporting documentation including photographs, receipts, and/or other records to demonstrate compliance with Ordering Provision Nos. 3.a and 3.b., or 3.a. and 3.c. The certification shall be notarized by a State of Texas Notary Public and include the following certification language:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted and all attached documents, and that based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the submitted information is true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

The certification shall be submitted to:

Order Compliance Team
Enforcement Division, MC 149A
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

with a copy to:

Waste Section Manager
Harlingen Regional Office
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
1804 West Jefferson Avenue
Harlingen, Texas 78550-5247

4. The provisions of this Agreed Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent. The Respondent is ordered to give notice of the Agreed Order to personnel who maintain day-to-day control over the Site operations referenced in this Agreed Order.
5. If the Respondent fails to comply with any of the Ordering Provisions in this Agreed Order within the prescribed schedules, and that failure is caused solely by an act of God, war, strike, riot, or other catastrophe, the Respondent's failure to comply is not a violation of this Agreed Order. The Respondent shall have the burden of establishing to the Executive Director's satisfaction that such an event has occurred. The Respondent shall notify the Executive Director within seven days after the Respondent becomes aware of a delaying event and shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate and minimize any delay.
6. The Executive Director may grant an extension of any deadline in this Agreed Order or in any plan, report, or other document submitted pursuant to this Agreed Order, upon a written and substantiated showing of good cause. All requests for extensions by the

Respondent shall be made in writing to the Executive Director. Extensions are not effective until the Respondent receives written approval from the Executive Director. The determination of what constitutes good cause rests solely with the Executive Director.

7. This Agreed Order, issued by the Commission, shall not be admissible against the Respondent in a civil proceeding, unless the proceeding is brought by the OAG to: (1) enforce the terms of this Agreed Order; or (2) pursue violations of a statute within the Commission's jurisdiction, or of a rule adopted or an order or permit issued by the Commission under such a statute.
8. This Agreed Order may be executed in separate and multiple counterparts, which together shall constitute a single instrument. Any page of this Agreed Order may be copied, scanned, digitized, converted to electronic portable document format ("pdf"), or otherwise reproduced and may be transmitted by digital or electronic transmission, including but not limited to facsimile transmission and electronic mail. Any signature affixed to this Agreed Order shall constitute an original signature for all purposes and may be used, filed, substituted, or issued for any purpose for which an original signature could be used. The term "signature" shall include manual signatures and true and accurate reproductions of manual signatures created, executed, endorsed, adopted, or authorized by the person or persons to whom the signatures are attributable. Signatures may be copied or reproduced digitally, electronically, by photocopying, engraving, imprinting, lithographing, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, stamping, or any other means or process which the Executive Director deems acceptable. In this paragraph exclusively, the terms "electronic transmission", "owner", "person", "writing", and "written" shall have the meanings assigned to them under TEX. BUS. ORG. CODE § 1.002.
9. Under 30 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 70.10(b), the effective date is the date of hand-delivery of the Order to the Respondent, or three days after the date on which the Commission mails notice of the Order to the Respondent, whichever is earlier.

SIGNATURE PAGE

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For the Commission

Ramon Garcia
For the Executive Director

6/24/15
Date

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the attached Agreed Order. I am authorized to agree to the attached Agreed Order on behalf of the entity indicated below my signature, and I do agree to the terms and conditions specified therein. I further acknowledge that the TCEQ, in accepting payment for the penalty amount, is materially relying on such representation.

I also understand that failure to comply with the Ordering Provisions, if any, in this order and/or failure to timely pay the penalty amount, may result in:

- A negative impact on compliance history;
- Greater scrutiny of any permit applications submitted;
- Referral of this case to the Attorney General's Office for contempt, injunctive relief, additional penalties, and/or attorney fees, or to a collection agency;
- Increased penalties in any future enforcement actions;
- Automatic referral to the Attorney General's Office of any future enforcement actions; and
- TCEQ seeking other relief as authorized by law.

In addition, any falsification of any compliance documents may result in criminal prosecution.

Ramon Garcia
Signature

March 3, 2015
Date

Ramon Garcia
Name (Printed or typed)
Authorized Representative of
Hidalgo County

County Judge
Title

APPROVED BY
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
ON: 3/3/15

Instructions: Send the original, signed Agreed Order with penalty payment to the Financial Administration Division, Revenue Operations Section at the address in Section IV, Paragraph 1 of this Agreed Order.

Attachment A
Docket Number: 2014-1094-MSW-E
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

Respondent:	Hidalgo County
Penalty Amount:	Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$14,251)
SEP Offset Amount:	Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-One Dollars (\$14,251)
Type of SEP:	Contribution to a Third-Party Pre-Approved SEP
Third-Party Administrator:	Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc.
Project Name:	<i>Tire Collection Events and Cleanup of Abandoned Tire Sites</i>
Location of SEP:	Hidalgo County - Rio Grande River Basin, Gulf Coast Aquifer

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) agrees to offset the administrative penalty amount assessed in this Agreed Order for the Respondent to contribute to a Supplemental Environmental Project (“SEP”). The offset is equal to the SEP Offset Amount set forth above and is conditioned upon completion of the project in accordance with the terms of this Attachment A.

1. Project Description

a. Project

The Respondent shall contribute the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator named above. The contribution will be to the **Texas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas, Inc. (“RC&D”)** for the *Tire Collection Events and Cleanup of Abandoned Tire Sites* project. The contribution will be used in accordance with the SEP Agreement between the Third-Party Administrator and the TCEQ (the “Project”). Specifically, the SEP Offset Amount will be used to coordinate with local city and county government officials and private entities (“Partner Entities”) to conduct tire collection events where residents will be able to drop off tires for proper disposal or recycling (“Collection Events”), or to clean sites where tires have been disposed of illegally (“Site Cleanups”).

Texas RC&D shall ensure that collected tires, debris, and waste are properly transported to and disposed at an authorized disposal site, and if a licensed hauler is needed for tires or other regulated waste collected from sites, Texas RC&D shall ensure that only properly licensed haulers are used for transport and disposal of tires and regulated wastes. The SEP will be performed in accordance with all federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

Hidalgo County
Agreed Order - Attachment A

All dollars contributed will be used solely for the direct cost of the Project, including but not limited to supplies, materials, and equipment. Any portion of this contribution that is not able to be spent on the specifically identified SEP may, at the discretion of the Executive Director ("ED"), be applied to another pre-approved SEP.

The Respondent's signature affixed to this Agreed Order certifies that it has no prior commitment to make this contribution and that it is being contributed solely in an effort to settle this enforcement action. The Respondent shall not profit in any manner from this SEP.

b. Environmental Benefit

This SEP will provide an environmental benefit by providing communities with a free and convenient means for safe and proper disposal of tires and by reducing the dangers and health threats associated with illegally dumped tires.

The health risks associated with illegal dumping are significant. Areas used for illegal tire dumping may be easily accessible to people, especially children, who are vulnerable to the physical hazards posed by abandoned tires. Rodents, insects, and other vermin attracted to dump sites may also pose health risks. Tire dump sites which contain scrap tires pose an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, which can breed 100 times faster in the warm, stagnant water standing in scrap tire casings. Severe illnesses, including West Nile Virus, have been attributed to disease-carrying mosquitoes. The potential for tire fires is also reduced by removing illegally dumped tires. Tire fires can result in the contamination of air, surface water, ground water, and soil. In addition, neighborhoods have been evacuated and property damage has been significant due to tire dump sites that caught fire. Illegal tire dumping can also impact drainage of runoff, making areas more susceptible to flooding when wastes block waterways. Open burning at tire dump sites can cause forest fires and erosion as fires burn away trees and undergrowth. Tire dumping has a negative impact on trees and wildlife, and runoff from tire dumpsites may contain chemicals that can contaminate wells and surface water used for drinking.

c. Minimum Expenditure

The Respondent shall contribute at least the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator and comply with all other provisions of this SEP.

2. Performance Schedule

Within 30 days after the effective date of this Agreed Order, the Respondent must contribute the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator. The Respondent shall make the check payable to **Texas Association of RC&D SEP** and shall mail the contribution with a copy of the Agreed Order to:

Hidalgo County
Agreed Order - Attachment A

Texas Association of RC&D Areas, Inc.
Attn.: Jerry Pearce, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2533
Victoria, Texas 77902

3. Records and Reporting

Concurrent with the payment of the SEP Offset Amount, the Respondent shall provide the Enforcement SEP Coordinator with a copy of the check and transmittal letter indicating full payment of the SEP Offset Amount to the Third-Party Administrator. The Respondent shall mail a copy of the check and transmittal letter to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Enforcement Division
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 219
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

4. Failure to Fully Perform

If the Respondent does not perform its obligations under this Attachment A, including full expenditure of the SEP Offset Amount, as described in Sections 2 and 3 above, the ED may require immediate payment of all or part of the SEP Offset Amount.

In the event the ED determines that the Respondent failed to fully implement and complete the Project, the Respondent shall remit payment for all or a portion of the SEP Offset Amount, as determined by the ED, and as set forth in the attached Agreed Order. After receiving notice of failure to complete the SEP, the Respondent shall include the docket number of the attached Agreed Order and a note that the enclosed payment is for the reimbursement of a SEP. The Respondent shall make the check payable to "Texas Commission on Environmental Quality" and shall mail it to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Litigation Division
Attention: SEP Coordinator, MC 175
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

5. Publicity

Any public statements concerning this SEP and/or project, made by or on behalf of the Respondent must include a clear statement that **the project was performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by the TCEQ**. Such statements include advertising, public relations, and press releases.

6. Recognition

The Respondent may not seek recognition for this contribution in any other state or federal regulatory program.

7. Other SEPs by TCEQ or Other Agencies

The SEP Offset Amount identified in this Attachment A and in the attached Agreed Order has not been, and shall not be, included as a SEP for the Respondent under any other Agreed Order negotiated with the TCEQ or any other agency of the state or federal government.